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April 7, 2011

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Suite 1220  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Elliot:

On behalf of the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our region, but across the nation.

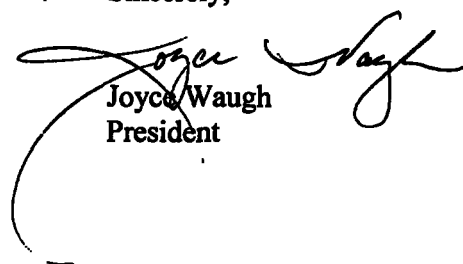
Representing a region with a prominent freight rail heritage, the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce understands the important role freight rail plays in promoting job growth and economic opportunity.

As America finally begins to pull itself out of the worst recession in more than 80 years, we do not need to reverse progress by damaging the ability of the rail industry to reinvest and continue to provide strong service. This can be accomplished by continuing to support the current rules responsible for fostering freight rail's role as a key economic driver.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. The Chamber respectfully requests that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the Surface Transportation Board. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today, which has given rise to the safest, most efficient, most reliable, and most affordable freight rail system in the world.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

  
Joyce Waugh  
President



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